RETAIL ENERGY CODE

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01	Initial Assessment Report
02	Preliminary Change
03	Final Change Report

INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

R0070 – PROVISION OF ENDURING TEST ENVIRONMENTS

DOCUMENT VERSION	V1.0
DATE ISSUED	13/12/2022
DOCUMENT APPROVAL STATUS	APPROVED

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	CHANGE PANEL	CHANGE PATH	SELF GOVERNANCE
PRIORITY STATUS	HIGH	URGENCY	STANDARD

DEADLINE FOR ALTERNATIVE CHANGE PROPOSALS	TBC

LEAD CHANGE ANALYST



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CHANGE OVERVIEW

This Change Proposal seeks to introduce updates into the REC, to ensure the relevant testing responsibilities are mandated. The introduction seeks to include the provision of enduring Test Environments and Test Data for use by REC Parties, when making necessary system changes for REC Change Proposals or internal system updates.

	High Impact: N/A
	Medium Impact: Central Switching Service, Switching Operator
	Low Impact: N/A

1 BACKGROUND

Central Switching Service (CSS) Test Environments and Test Data were available for the launch of the CSS arrangements (REC V3.0) in July 2022. Currently the REC does not require the Switching Operator (SO) to provide the enduring Test Environments and Test Data, for use by CSS Users when making necessary system changes for REC Change Proposals or internal operational system updates.

Changes are required to REC documentation, to ensure this clearly describes the responsibilities on the CSS, the SO, the Switching Data Service Providers and on CSS Users regarding the enduring provision and use of Test Environments and Test Data.

The proposed solution will (subject to solution development):

- Introduce new requirements into Schedule 5 – Change Management
- Introduce new requirements into Schedule 25 – Central Switching Service
- Amend existing requirements in Schedule 26 - Switching Service Management Schedule
- Amend existing requirements in the Technical Specification Document - Switching Operator (SO) Service Definition

Two new Category 3 documents are also expected to be introduced - a Test Data Management Plan and an Environment Management Plan.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

For specific types of changes, industry system testing will be required to ensure the end-to-end Switching processes will work as expected following implementation. If Test Environments and Test Data are not available, CSS Users will not be able to complete testing to confirm their systems will operate correctly in the live environment.

The REC currently doesn't define specific obligations on Service Providers regarding enduring test systems and Test Data for Switching processes. The lack of specific obligations may impact the availability of appropriate Test Environments. This could impact the progression of improvements to Switching processes that require a technical change.

3 USER STORIES

REF.	USER STORIES
MARKET PARTICIPANT USER STORIES	
M1	As a CSS User I want access to a CSS Test Environment, to enable me to test my systems and processes ahead of the implementation of complex or significant changes, so that I can identify any issues prior to go-live.

M2	As the SO, I want clarity on the obligations placed on me regarding the provision and maintenance of CSS Test Environments and data, so that I can meet my obligations and provide CSS Users and Service Providers with access to appropriate Test Environments.
M3	As a Switching Data Service Provider (SDSP), I want clarity on the obligations placed on me regarding the provision and maintenance of Test Environments and data, so that I can meet my obligations to test CSS changes.
M4	As a Switching Data Service Provider (SDSP), I want access to a CSS Test Environment, to enable me to test my systems and processes ahead of the implementation of complex or significant changes, so that I can identify any issues and address prior to go-live.

4 IMPACTS

REC PARTIES AND SERVICE USERS
CSS Users
Energy Suppliers
DCC

REC SERVICE PROVIDERS
Switching Operator
Switching Data Service Providers
Central Switching Service Provider

RECCO / REC CODE MANAGER
Schedule 5 – Change Management
Schedule 25 – Central Switching Service
Schedule 26 – Switching Service Management
New Category 3 documents (expected)
SO Service Definition

As a result of this Change Proposal, it is expected that:

- CSS Users will be able to utilise the CSS Test Environments to support the development and implementation of CSS changes, with access requested by a Switching Service Request.
- SOs will be required to ensure SDSPs have access to Test Environments and test simulators, and that the environments are populated with the required data sets.
- SDSPs will be able to/be required to maintain their own Test Environments and utilise the CSS Test Environments to support the development and implementation of CSS changes.
- The Central Switching Service Provider (CSSP) will be required to ensure Test Environments and data are available and maintained.

There is no direct impact to Consumers from this Change Proposal. However, ensuring appropriate testing for industry systems and processes has an indirect benefit to Consumers. This will provide greater assurance that changes will be fully tested and thereby minimising risk to Switching Arrangements, to the market and Consumers.

5 CROSS CODE IMPACTS

This change does not have any cross-code impacts.

6 CHANGE PATH AND RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

CHANGE PATH	SELF GOVERNANCE	RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	CHANGE PANEL

REC Documents impacted by this Change Proposal fall under the responsibility of both the REC Change Panel and Technical Expert Panel. Therefore, it is proposed that the responsibility for this change should rest with the REC Change Panel.

7 PRIORITY STATUS AND URGENCY

Category	Significance / Resource impacts / Urgency	Further selection / breakdown	Score (0-3)	Weighting	Weighted Score
Impacts	Consumer Impact	Indirect	1	25	25
	Retail Markets Impact	Retail Risk(s)	1	15	15
	RECCo / REC Party / REC Service Provider Impact	Operational Effectiveness and Efficiencies	2	5	10
		Legal and Regulatory Compliance	1	13	13
Resource	Complexity / Effort / Duration		2	8	15
Strategic Alignment	Contribution to/ Alignment with the objectives of the REC		1	15	8
	Contribution to/ Alignment with RECCo's Forward Work Plan		0		0
Urgency *(The need to progress a change to meet a targeted date)*		Other Planned Activity (High Priority activity)	3	20	60
				Overall Priority Score (rounded)	145

Priority Status	MEDIUM
Change Proposal Type	STANDARD

This Change Proposal has a medium priority status based on a priority score of 145.

Consumer Impact – a score of 1 as this will have a minor impact to Consumers. It will ensure the appropriate governance around the implementation of changes and reduce risk of issues with changes that could impact Consumers.

Retail Risk – a score of 1 to reflect the need for the CSS to have Test Environments and Test Data in place for CSS Users and SDSPs, to use for developing solutions for Change Proposals and/or operational changes. This links to the Retail Risk Register, Reference 9[1].

Operational Effectiveness and Efficiencies – a score of 2 as this will improve the effectiveness of the relevant changes that are implemented through the execution of robust testing.

Legal Regulatory and Compliance – a score of 1 as this change will provide clarity to Service Providers regarding the provision and maintenance of Test Environments, post Switching Programme.

[1] Performance Assurance - Retail Risk Register (1).pdf

Complexity/ Effort/Duration – a score of 2 to reflect this is a standard Change Proposal requiring solution development and Impact Assessment.

Contribution to/Alignment with the REC Objectives – a score of 1 to reflect minor improvements to the effectiveness of the operation of the REC and Central Systems.

Urgency – a score of 3 to reflect the desire to implement this Change Proposal needs to progress immediately to implement at the earliest opportunity.

8 SUMMARY OF CHANGE PROPOSAL PLAN

The solution for this Change Proposal has already been identified and discussions with the DCC are in progress to confirm the detail of the legal text changes required.

An Impact Assessment period has been included to give impacted Parties and Service Providers sufficient time to assess the proposed solution and respond to the impact assessment.

Following publication of the Preliminary Change Report, a 15 Working Day consultation period is proposed.

	FROM	TO
SOLUTION ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT	25/11/2022	31/01/2023
IMPACT ASSESSMENT PERIOD	02/02/2023	12/04/2023

9 GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Central Switching Service	means the Systems and processes provided or procured by the CSS Provider for the purpose of providing the Address Management Service and the Registration Service.
Retail Risk	means a risk that retail energy consumer outcomes and the effectiveness of the retail market are measurably and significantly degraded by a failure by a REC Service User or REC Service Provider to meet the objectives, standards and core processes under this Code
Test Environments	means the testing environments as described in the E2E Testing Plan.
Test Data	means data to be used for testing purposes during a) a Test Phase, as further described in the relevant Test Plan for that Test Phase; or b) a Service Provider Test Phase, as further described in the relevant Service Provider Test Plan.
Switching Operator	means the DCC in performing the role of managing the co-ordination of the CSS Provider and the other Switching Data Service Providers, including the mechanisms for Users to report incidents and access service management support, from the CSS Go-Live Date.